

Sharon Hunter
67 Fennbrook Road
West Hartford, CT 06119

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Dear CT PHC Testimony,

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee:

I write to ask you to strongly support and vote in the affirmative to add bill language for the modernization of the CT Naturopathic physician scope of practice to HB 5537. The language needs to be attached to this bill so it can come before the Public Health Committee for consideration. This Naturopathic scope of practice law is 90 years old and has not kept pace with the significant advances in education and training of Naturopathic doctors in the ensuing decades.

The current outdated scope of practice law prevents CT residents from getting alternative primary health care they want and need. It infringes on the rights of naturopathic doctors (NDs) to practice what they have been educated and trained to do.

The University of Bridgeport College of Naturopathic Medical program has difficulty in meeting its educational mission efficiently because of the current law. The Connecticut ND scope of practice is extremely limited compared to other States.

What's required is a change and modernization of scope of practice as other states have done with old Naturopathic practice acts. This update would

- Improve healthcare assess
- Provide better continuity of care
- Provide better coordination of care
- Enhance medical education and training at UBCNM
- Address primary care needs
- Help make consistent licensing and practices across states
- Retains UB graduated NDs in the state

ND education and training is very comparable to MDs.

CT would be among other progressive states to significantly expand and modernize the ND scope of practice (Arizona 2002, Washington 2005, Hawaii 2009, Vermont 2013 and California). The track record of safety in these other states is stellar.

It is time to modernize the 90 plus year old CT naturopathic scope of practice. It is long overdue.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sharon Hunter